

# THE GREAT SEAL

OF THE

## STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

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The numerous inquiries received at the Secretary of State's office concerning "The Great Seal of the State of North Carolina" suggest the preparation of a sketch giving descriptions of the various seals which have been used in the Colony and State of North Carolina.

In the colonial period there were four different seals. Since North Carolina became a State there have been five distinct seals used. The second charter granted by King Charles the Second to the Proprietors of Carolina, dated the 30th day of June in the seventeenth year of his reign, A. D. 1665, recited the fact that he had been "graciously pleased to grant unto our right trusty and right well-beloved cousin and counsellor Edward Earl of Clarendon, our high chancellor of England; our right trusty and entirely beloved cousin and counsellor George Duke of Albemarle, master of our horse; our right trusty and well-beloved William now Earl of Craven; our right trusty and well-beloved counsellor John Lord Berkeley; our right trusty and well-beloved counsellor Anthony Lord Ashley, chancellor of our exchequer; our right trusty and well-beloved counsellor Sir George Carteret, knight and baronet, vice-chancellor of our household; our right trusty and well-beloved Sir John Colleton, knight and baronet; and Sir William Berkeley, knight; all that province, territory, or tract of ground, called Carolina, situate, lying and being within our dominions of America; extending from the north end of the island called Luke Island, which lieth in the southern Virginia seas, and within thirty-six degrees of north latitude; and to the west, as far as the south seas; and so respectively as far as the river of Matthias, which bordereth upon the coast of Florida, and within thirty-one degrees of northern latitude; and so west, in a direct line, as far as the south seas aforesaid."

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NOTE.—All the illustrations used herein are the actual sizes of the seals they represent.

The cut of the Albemarle seal is taken from an impression in the courthouse at Edenton; those of George II. and George III. from seals loaned by Mr. John G. Wood, of Edenton, and by the Hall of History at Raleigh.